

[7 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Ground Infrastructure for utilization of EDUSAT has been largely created by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which invested Rs. 89.00 crore in the programme till December, 2006.

(c) and (d) University Grants Commission (UGC) , through its body Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC) is utilizing EDUSAT facility for curriculum based education. UGC-CEC uses EDUSAT network for live transmission of their classroom programme which is received by all institutions having Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) or Receive Only Terminals (ROTs). The students attending the session can interact and ask questions to the experts through audio-video conferencing or text mode or through telephone.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is sponsoring telecasting of programmes through AICTE-EDUSAT network mostly for curriculum based teaching as also for conducting training programmes and seminars. The Council is also engaged in the development of digital course wares.

The infrastructure of EDUSAT is being utilized by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for curriculum based education, teachers' training, professional educational courses and for conducting teleconferencing sessions for software content generation.

NCERT is conducting inter-active orientation/training programmes of teachers and teachers' educators.

Department of Science and Technology (DST) is utilizing EDUSAT network for group discussions, lectures, demonstrations, video-shows, training and capacity building programmes.

Success rate in IGNOU

3358. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enrolment in IGNOU is increasing and the success rate of the students is decreasing year after year; and

(b) whether any study has been conducted to improve the success rate of the students enrolled in the university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The enrolment in IGNOU as well as the number of certificates, diplomas and degrees awarded to the students have been increasing over the past few years.

(b) No exclusive study has been conducted so far to improve the success rate of the students enrolled in the university.

Failure of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3359. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mid-Day Meal facilities to the school going children are totally a failure in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the number of complaints have come to the notice of Government that a lot of children are suffering from food poisoning; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard and the action being taken against the authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Certain instances of food poisoning have come to the notice of Government. Action taken by the concerned State Governments is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). The Central Government has been continuously urging the State Governments to—

- > ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- > food items are stored in dry and safe places
- > drinking water is adequately made available
- > cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.